

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 5, 6, 7 12-14, 16 and 20-21, in their entirety, to read:

1. (Amended) A genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, comprising a recombinant nucleic acid that encodes an enzyme in a plant Vitamin C biosynthesis pathway, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of phosphoglucose isomerase, phosphomannomutase, GDP-mannose pyrophosphorylase, GDP-mannose epimerase and galactonolactone dehydrogenase.
5. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 1 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, expresses said recombinant nucleic acid.
6. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 1 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, produces increased levels of Vitamin C, relative to a progenitor plant from which said genetically engineered plant is derived.
7. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 1 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, has increased resistance to environmental stress compared to a plant of the same species without said recombinant nucleic acid wherein said environmental stress is selected from the group consisting of drought, cold, UV radiation, air pollution, salts, heavy metals and reactive oxygen species.
12. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 9 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, expresses said recombinant nucleic acid.
13. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 9 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, produces increased levels of Vitamin C, relative to a progenitor plant from which said genetically engineered plant is derived.
14. (Amended) The genetically engineered plant of claim 9 wherein said genetically engineered plant, or portion thereof, has increased resistance to environmental stress compared to a plant of the same species without said recombinant nucleic acid wherein said environmental stress is selected from the group consisting of drought, cold, UV radiation, air pollution, salts, heavy metals and reactive oxygen species.
16. (Amended) A method of increasing the level of Vitamin C produced in a plant, or portion thereof, comprising the step of:

engineering said plant, or portion thereof, to express a recombinant nucleic acid that encodes an enzyme in a plant Vitamin C biosynthesis pathway, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of phosphoglucose isomerase, phosphomannomutase, GDP-mannose pyrophosphorylase, GDP-mannose epimerase and galactonolactone dehydrogenase.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said plant, or portion thereof, comprises increased antioxidation capacity, relative to a progenitor plant from which said genetically engineered plant is derived.
21. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said plant, or portion thereof, has increased resistance to environmental stress compared to a plant of the same species without said recombinant nucleic acid wherein said environmental stress is selected from the group consisting of drought, cold, UV radiation, air pollution, salts, heavy metals and reactive oxygen species.

Please add new claims 24-26 as follows:

24. (New) The genetically engineered plant of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide comprises GenBank accession number T46645.
25. (New) The genetically engineered plant of claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid comprises GenBank accession number T46645.
26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid comprises GenBank accession number T46645.